



**For immediate release  
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## **DCR HOLDING PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ALONG NONANTUM ROAD**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has scheduled a public meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2009, to discuss planned improvements to Nonantum Road, which runs along the Charles River through parts of Brighton, Watertown, and Newton. The project is aimed at increasing safety, both for vehicles along the roadway and for cyclists and pedestrians along the nearby multi-use path.

“We are pleased to be planning improvements for this important stretch of roadway,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “Once the design is ready, we will be able to move fast and start the project when construction money becomes available.”

The Burlington-based engineering firm of Fay, Spofford & Thorndike Inc. is designing the project, which includes traffic-calming measures such as reducing the width of the roadway to one travel lane in each direction, with left turn lanes at major intersections; widening the existing recreational path; and providing landscape enhancements between the path and the parkway to increase pedestrian safety.

The project improves the road between Galen Street in Watertown and Soldiers Field Road in Brighton. Construction is expected to cost approximately \$6 million. An initial public meeting on the project was held last June.

“Safety improvements to Nonantum Road are long overdue,” said Senator Steven A. Tolman. “I am eager to see this project move forward and especially pleased to see that the planned improvements take into account the problems along the entire stretch of roadway.”

“I am pleased that DCR has moved forward with scheduling a public meeting regarding the redesign of Nonantum Road,” said Representative Peter Koutoujian. “I encourage constituents to attend this meeting and take the opportunity to share their concerns regarding much-needed safety improvements to this popular route for commuters in the region.”

“I am so pleased that we are proceeding quickly with the design for Nonantum Road improvements,” said Representative Kay Khan. “This road presents many dangers to the people living in Newton and traveling through the area. Hopefully, we can complete this phase

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Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
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and continue on with this project in a fast and efficient manner to ensure the safety of all who travel on this road.”

“It’s very encouraging to see this project on a fast track,” said Representative Jonathan Hecht. “We need community input now to ensure the improvements appropriately address public safety, transportation, and open space needs.”

“I look forward to working with my colleagues and DCR to improve Nonantum Road and to ensure our roads are safe,” said Representative Ruth Balser.

**The March 12 public meeting will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Community Rowing Boathouse, 20 Nonantum Road, Brighton.**

The improvements to Nonantum Road were recommended in DCR’s April 2002 Master Plan for the Charles River Basin. The study to examine the improvements was completed by Fay, Spofford & Thorndike in June 2006. Public meetings over the course of both the Master Plan and the study indicated broad support for this project.

For more information on the Nonantum Road project, the June 2006 Nonantum Road Improvements Traffic Study Report is on-line at:

[www.mass.gov/dcr/pe/Nonantum%20Road%20Preliminary%20Traffic%20Study%20Report.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/pe/Nonantum%20Road%20Preliminary%20Traffic%20Study%20Report.pdf)

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*

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